

Sosebee in LaGrange, Colonel David Norwood in Mobile, Alabama, and Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army, in Washington, D.C.

HONORING THEODORE AND  
MAXINE ALBERS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor Theodore and Maxine Albers for being recognized by the Mesa County Civic Forum for their lifetime of contributions to Mesa County. The Civic Forum's mission is to promote citizen influence regarding the important issues affecting Mesa County's quality of life through better understanding, objective, non-partisan dialogue, and support for citizen action. Without question, Theodore and Maxine have upheld this mission to its fullest extent and are distinguished role models that every citizen should seek to emulate.

Theodore and Maxine have a longstanding record of reaching out to the Grand Junction community. They have played an active role in numerous community organizations throughout their years as residents in the area. Together, they have worked in both the public and private sectors of the local economy and, most notably, have been extremely influential in the field of education, particularly at Mesa State College. In 1992, Mesa State College honored the couple by giving them the Distinguished Service Award, naming Albers Hall in their honor and forming the Albers Scholarship Fund as part of the Mesa State College Foundation.

The former President of Mesa State College from 1970–74, Theodore currently sits on the Mesa State College Board of Trustees and is an active member in such organizations as Club 20 and the Lions Club. Maxine served with great distinction as a Mesa County Commissioner from 1974–1988 and today is a member of the Women's Foundation of the Colorado Advisory Council and the Mesa County Republican Women. These are but a hand-full of the literally dozens of community causes to which the Albers have dedicated their time and energies.

Mr. Speaker, the active role that the Albers have played in Grand Junction has contributed immeasurably to the betterment of our community. The Civic Forum plays a crucial role in the community and Theodore and Maxine Albers embody the ideals of service and sacrifice that this distinguished organization promotes.

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, the Albers eminently deserve the thanks and praise of this body. Colorado is clearly a better place for having known these outstanding Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUGLAS  
ISCOVITZ

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Mr. Douglas Iscovitz, of Weston, Florida. I am very pleased to say that Douglas was recently named the Florida Principal of the Year by the Florida Association of Secondary Administrators and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The selection process for this distinction is an arduous one. After having been nominated for the award, the first-round finalists must submit paper-work detailing school accomplishments; the principal's track record of dealing with students, staff, and the school; the principal's ability to solve academic and social problems; community involvement; and positive school climate. After closely examining his work, it is clear that Douglas' accomplishments exemplify the tenets espoused by the Florida Principal of the Year award.

As the Principal of Indian Ridge Middle School, Douglas has founded new programs and encouraged students to excel in existing growth fostering programs. In this sense he has taken a very active role in his school. His most meritorious program is the "Write On America!" project, a project in which students write to prominent people who have made significant contributions to the greatness of our nation. Requesting an autographed photo, inspiring messages, and words of advice, the "Write on America!" program has proven itself to be a wonderful way to teach Indian Ridge Middle School students about history and writing. It is clear that Douglas' efforts have made a lasting impression on those in the school and in the community as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Douglas Iscovitz for his extraordinary achievements and exemplary effort in bettering the Indian Ridge Middle School. It is truly an honor to be named the Florida Principal of the Year, and it is an honor for the residents of South Florida to be able to call him one of our own. Indeed, Douglas has made a remarkable impact on the students at Indian Ridge Middle School. His accomplishments are something that both he and the entire state of Florida can be proud of.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SONAM  
ZOKSANG SEEK TO PRESERVE  
TIBETAN CULTURE AND IDENTITY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago in the Cannon Rotunda, we had the pleasure of viewing a magnificent exhibit of the photographs of Sonam Zoksang, a Tibetan photographer who has sought to use his photographic art and his considerable skill to preserve Tibetan culture and identity.

Sonam Zoksang was born in the small Tibetan village of Kyirong, but his parents fled to

India just a month after he was born. He made the first visit to the country of his birth in 1993 when he was 33 years old. As a result of that visit, he made it his goal to capture the devastation that his people have experienced on film for all the world to see. Since that first visit to Tibet in 1993, he has been compelled to return each year.

Mr. Speaker, over the last seven years, Mr. Zoksang has seen the situation in Tibet worsen dramatically. The Chinese government has given incentives to non-Tibetan Han Chinese to encourage them to move into Tibet, and increasingly this has made Tibetans a minority in their own land. The growth in Chinese immigrants has increased Sonam's greatest concern for the future of Tibet—the children. He states that in "addition to all the problems they have in common with Tibetans in general, there is little or no educational opportunity for them in Tibet. Every year hundreds of Tibetan children risk their lives to escape to India, crossing the Himalayas on foot in the frigid winter to taste the air of freedom."

In explaining his photographs, Sonam Zoksang said: "I feel very strongly that many young Tibetans have no hope, no dreams, and no future to live for. No Tibetans seem to be truly happy with their situation, and moreover, they feel threatened with their very extinction." In an effort to preserve the culture of the Tibetan people, Sonam Zoksang has risked his life to document the changes taking place inside Tibet. The Chinese would refuse him a visa to enter the Country, so he has had to risk his life and his freedom in order to record through his photographs the traditional culture and the rapid and systematic way in which it is being destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sonam Zoksang for his outstanding photographs and the great contribution which his work has made to preserve Tibetan culture and to strengthen the identity of the Tibetan people.

TRIBUTE TO HILLTOP—50 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Hilltop Community Resources Inc., an organization that provides a range of invaluable services to the residents of Mesa County who are in need of special assistance and care, as they celebrate their 50th birthday. In recognition of this tremendous landmark and Hilltop's considerable efforts to improve life for those who are less fortunate, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this tremendous organization.

Hilltop originated as the Mesa County Society for Crippled Children and Adults in 1950, offering outpatient services for people with disabilities. In the time since, Hilltop has incorporated a number of helpful services to assist its patients with their ailments and needs. Hilltop creates independent living communities that provide care and comfort for their citizens and offer the Elder Care/Assisted Living program that ensures elderly residents the opportunity to stay active in their daily lifestyle with